

EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

1. An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it **MUST** be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with Clifford J. Mass (reg. no. 30,086) on 3-25-09.

The application has been amended as follows:

Original claim 9 (which was cancelled in the response filed on 2-6-09) was rewritten, incorporating original claim 1, and added as new claim 38:

--- Claim 38 (New) An omni-directional imaging assembly comprising a solid omni-directional lens omni-directional lens comprising:

- (a) a vertical axis of symmetry;
- (b) an upper surface, at least part of which is capable of reflecting rays that arrive from the inner side of the omni-directional lens;
- (c) a transparent perimeter surface;
- (d) a lower convex surface, at least part of which is capable of reflecting rays that arrive from the direction of said perimeter surface;

(e) a transparent circular surface maintained in said lower convex surface around said vertical axis of symmetry;

wherein light rays from a first 360 degrees, panoramic, scene are refracted by said transparent perimeter surface, are then reflected by said lower convex surface towards said upper surface, and then reflected by said upper surface towards said transparent circular surface, then refracted and exit said omni-directional lens;

further comprising an image capture device, directed towards the transparent circular surface in the lower surface of the omni-directional lens and having its optical axis coinciding with the vertical axis of symmetry of said omni-directional lens. ---

The dependency of claim 34 was changed from "claim 9" to read, ---claim 38---, at line 1.

REASONS FOR ALLOWANCE

2. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:

The prior art does not show or fairly suggest the claimed invention of an omni-directional imaging assembly having the claimed structure and claimed limitations, wherein a rejection under 35 USC 102 or 103 would be improper. Please particularly note the combination of claimed elements and claimed limitations, including as amended and argued in the Applicant's response filed on 2-6-09, at pages 17 and 18, as well as the reasons for indicating allowable subject matter given in the office action mailed on 10-6-08. Therefore, in light of the Applicants' arguments and/or amendments,

the claimed invention is considered to be in condition for allowance as being novel and nonobvious over the prior art.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Drawings

3. The drawings were received on 2-6-09. These drawings are approved.

Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Evelyn A. Lester whose telephone number is (571) 272-2332. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F, subject to an increased flex schedule.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Ricky L. Mack can be reached on (571) 272-2333. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/Evelyn A. Lester/
Primary Examiner, Art Unit 2873